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HONORABLE GEORGE NIGH
Governor

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It is the purpose of *Oklahoma Today* to devote itself to the entire state of Oklahoma and its every positive aspect; the scenery, culture, recreational and visitor attracting events; its industry, natural and man-made wonders; its achievements; its heritage; its present; and its future.

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Due to recent increases in the cost of postage, paper and printing, *Oklahoma Today's* subscription price must be increased. Effective with this issue, subscriptions will be \$7 for one year and \$20 for three years. Any orders received prior to Sept. 1 will be honored at the old price.

COVERS: Wraparound — A view at dusk of the Ouachita National Forest from a scenic turnout on the Talimena Skyline Drive. The area is a favorite for fall foliage tours.

Inside — Autumn leaves are reflected in the cool waters of the River Bend area of the Mountain Fork River, which runs through Beavers Bend State Park in southeastern Oklahoma. Photos by Fred Marvel.

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Fall is the best time of all for vacationing and simply enjoying Oklahoma's outdoors. Leaves crunch under backpackers' boots, and bigger fish bite faster. FFA kids show sleek, fat animals at the fairs, and exotic animals cavort in the Arbuckles.

Recreation also adds joy to the lives of the handicapped, and Oklahoma Today salutes those who provide it.

Ballet, baskets and bricks may seem to have little in common, but each art has its admirers and collectors. And what better time than fall to admire art in all its forms? Oklahoma Today samples each of these — from backpackers' boots to ballet and bricks — in this issue.

COMING IN THE WINTER ISSUE Christmas means giving and sharing, stars and candles, trees, dolls and bikes. We'll consider holiday symbols and traditions, all Oklahoma style, in this issue.





In the Arbuckle Wilderness

EXOTIC ANIMALS FIND A HOME

By L.A. Kyle

L. A. Kyle is a Norman free-lance writer.

Photo by Roger Artman.

Down in the world's oldest mountains, there lies a Peaceable Kingdom.

Otherwise known as the Arbuckle Wilderness, it's a 400-acre park near

In the Arbuckle Wilderness

Davis where nearly 2,000 forest and plains animals roam free. The only carnivore you're likely to see inside the 11-mile fence is a little native fox trotting down a hillside, intent on stalking a peacock.

Exotic animals from nearly every continent—from antelope and eland, giraffe and ostrich, yak to zebra—mingle with familiar Oklahoma species.

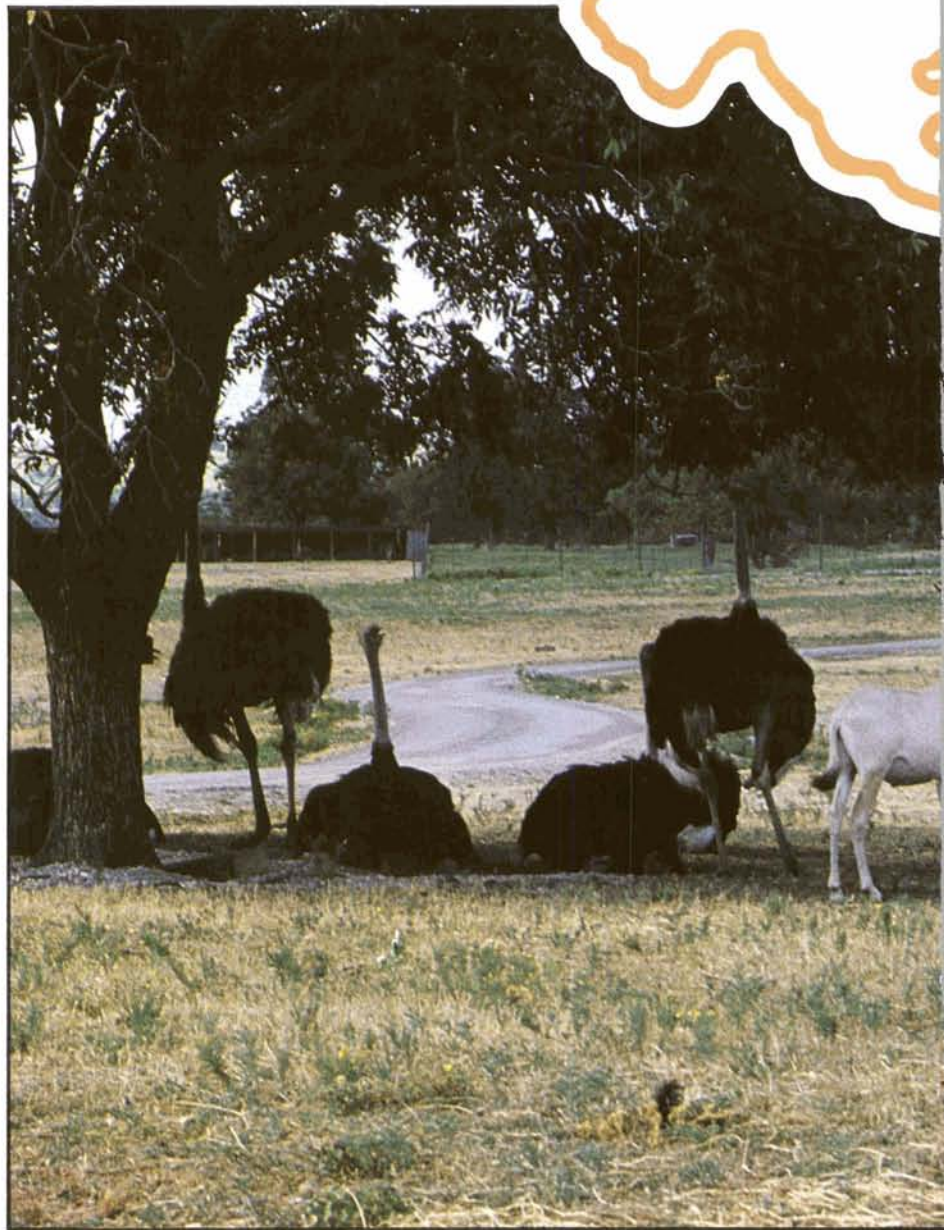
Animals come up to the car windows to be hand-fed on a breathtaking scenic tour where eight miles of hard-surfaced road cuts through the granite rocks of the Arbuckle Mountains.

It's an easy-does-it family outing, geared to the pace of the smallest child or the most weary adult. Once they've been nose to nose with a zebra, gazed into the melting brown eyes of a llama, hand-fed a deer with a tickling velvet muzzle, the main problem will be getting the kids to go home. Or tearing yourself away.

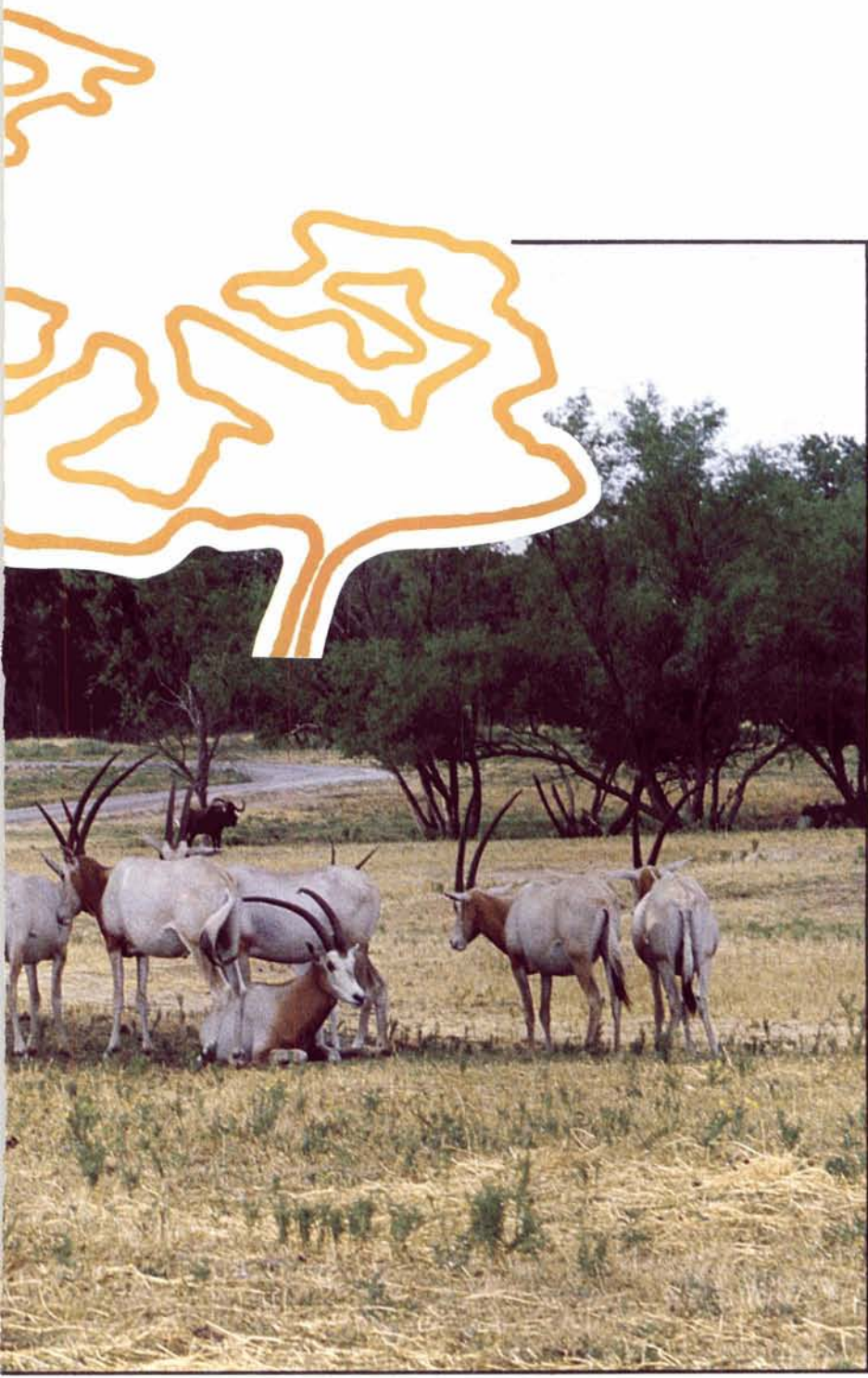
It's a face-to-face and utterly disarming encounter with innocence, the best of Eden with a dash of Dr. Doolittle showmanship added for fun.

Children will be captivated by the petting park enclosure for smaller animals (admission free), and the drive-through tour is an experience you won't want to miss. Groups get a discount and larger parties can arrange a hayride with cookouts, too.

Prices for the drive-it-yourself tour are \$4 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, free for those under 2. A good rule of thumb is to bring along more film



The road twists and turns through the Arbuckle Wilderness (above). African animals rest beneath a shade tree (below). Map and photo by Paul Lefebvre.



and animal food than you think you'll need. You'll use it.

"Just pull over to the side of the road and rattle your feed bucket," says owner Jerry Hagee, "and you'll see animals everywhere."

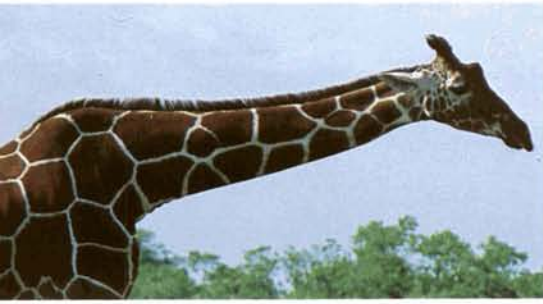
He's right. The woods come alive with them. Down through the black-jack oaks, over a rise in the road, little goats and shaggy horned sheep come trotting up like rowdy school children, jostling each other to get to the feed.

Likely as not, you'll be greeted by the resident camel, a self-appointed gatekeeper with fringed eyelashes and an inscrutable smile. A zebra may trot over from the roadside, politely curious, to see if you have anything to offer.

The road winds and dips beside steep ravines and rocky hillsides, opening on an occasional vista of mountains (the 5 mph speed limit means exactly that). Wind stirs through the cedar trees, the air is sweet and there is not a single soda pop can in sight, not so much as a candy bar wrapper.

Deer pace alongside with liquid grace, poking inquiring muzzles through the car windows. There's a regal white llama, an aristocrat who nibbles food pellets from an outstretched hand.

They're all healthy—bright eyes, sleek pelts, alert and curious—and they are a charming bunch of moochers. Some have learned to cut cross-country and meet the same car a couple of hairpin turns later, their



identity betrayed by a crooked horn or a chewed ear.

Such less-than-perfect individuals aren't culled from the herds, Hagee says. "We want it that way—nature doesn't make everything perfect, and we don't want everything perfect."

He toured a lot of outdoor zoos before he started building his own. "They didn't look natural," he said. "I wanted one where people and nature could interact, where they could be natural together."

So he "retired" at age 36, selling out a lucrative interest in the family grocery business in Oklahoma City, and started to work on his boyhood dream with his wife, Polly, and their three daughters.

"It's a hobby that's just a super place for our family," he said. They had bred exotic animals on a smaller scale on a family farm outside Oklahoma City, and now are selling their surplus stock to zoos, ranches, importers and animal dealers.

It's a Noah's Ark with deluxe accommodations—the inner fences serve only to prevent interbreeding, protecting pure strains of rare and endangered species.

"We'll keep it open as long as it's fun," Hagee said. "If the time ever comes when it's not, we'll just lock up the gate and keep it for the family."

The project was four years in the building, and they're not through yet. How much has he invested? "A lot," he grins.

The road took 1½ years to build: Hagee rode over the land on horseback, took topographic and aerial maps to an engineering firm and walked in front of the bulldozers as they roughed out the eight-mile drive. Then he drove the trail by Jeep, changing the route to suit his own notions.

After that, 16 men with chainsaws worked for six months straight clearing bush—"You couldn't even see the

animals if they hadn't"—and the whole works was surrounded by an 11-mile fence.

Included is a waterfall, cascading down an 84-foot rock cliff to splash over a low-water crossing. Did nature get a power assist here? a visitor wondered. "Well," Hagee grinned, "Polly and her daughters climb up there every night with buckets—it gives them something to do. . ." His eyes dance.

Four hundred school children had gone through the park that day and all had eaten lunch on the grounds, but there was not a trace of litter. "We work hard to make sure you don't see any," Hagee said, "and we don't have much litter here. The people who come through are very courteous."

Park rangers are armed, but they're mostly gunning for the little foxes which prey on peacocks and baby animals. Come spring, about 400 baby animals will be born over a four to six-week period.

The Hagees enjoy it all from their weekend cabin, set where the scenic trail bottoms out onto a plains area. They look out on a vista where giraffe and ostrich, kudu and gemsbok are peacefully browsing. Under a big shady tree there lounges a Texas longhorn, for all the world like Ferdinand.

The park is open all year, except for Christmas Day and times when the roads are too icy or the low-water crossings are flooded. It's an easy one-fourth mile off I-35 at Turner Falls Exit 51.

The petting park enclosure, set up front near the gift shop and snack bar, is a good way to unwind after the tour, which takes 1½ to two hours. Smaller animals can be hand-fed at close quarters, except for a bad-tempered black swan who will sail up and try to bite your toes, if you don't watch out.

Travelers on the drive-through tour are firmly advised to stay in their cars. You'll quickly understand why if you encounter the resident buffalo herd pre-empting your right-of-way.

Offerings in the gift shop range from a \$79 stuffed monkey to 49-cent trifles that are high in child appeal. You'll find toy tigers and horrid wiggly rubber things (rats, spiders, snakes and the like), enough to keep any child reasonably occupied for a while on the way home.

It's 'Magic'

TULSA BALLET SOARS

Ballet may have exclusive beginnings as the entertainment of kings, but it has become one of the most popular performing arts. In one year, 33 million people buy tickets for ballet performances. Millions more see ballet in movies, such as "The Turning Point," or on television.

There is even a new and expensive perfume named for the legendary Russian ballerina Pavlova.

The ballet boom may confound skeptics, but it is perfectly understandable to Moscelyne Larkin, co-artistic director of Tulsa Ballet Theatre

with her husband, Roman Jasinski.

"Ballet is the easiest art to enjoy," she says, "because dance is one of the most natural instincts. Haven't you heard the phrase, 'dance for joy?'"

Ballet is an international art that began in Italy in the 15th century, flourished in France under royal amateur dancers Catherine de Medici and Louis XIV, and soared with the professional dancers of the Russian Imperial Ballet. From the 1800s, when women first danced on their toes like heavenly beings, through the modern abstract ballets of George Balanchine, ballet seems to belong to

all time and to all people.

"According to an Indian legend, dancing is the breath of life made visible," says Miss Larkin. She is one of Oklahoma's famed five Indian ballerinas along with Yvonne Chouteau, Rosella Hightower, Maria and Marjorie Tallchief.

Tulsa Ballet Theatre celebrated its 25th anniversary last season with two achievements: it became a fully professional company with 18 dancers under contract and 40 ballets in its repertoire, and it was named a Major Company for the seventh straight year by the National Association of Regional Ballet. Only a handful of

BALLET

regional companies share this title, including Atlanta, Dayton, Dallas, Minnesota and Washington, D.C.

Tulsa Ballet has won crowds and critics. In Tulsa performances and on regional tour, TBT attracted an audience of 60,000 last year. *Tulsa Tribune* dance critic Lili Livingston said, "TBT could perform in New York and make Joffrey look sick. This company is magic."

Eminent ballet critic Walter Terry praised TBT as "first rate" in a *Saturday Review* article, lauding a "performance that not only made Tulsa proud but did honor to ballet in America."

TBT began inauspiciously in 1956 with a corps de ballet composed of ballet teachers and advanced students. From their ballet school, the Jasinskis developed this fledgling corps into Ballet Arts, Inc., for annual performances. Proceeds were donated for dental care of underprivileged children. The operation was so small that the box office was in a shoe store. By 1962 Tulsa Civic Ballet had evolved, acquiring a board of directors to keep the ballet company on its feet financially.

"After 25 years of steady artistic growth, TBT has made a giant leap into the world of professionalism," last year's board president Nancy Feldman said.

That leap puts TBT in an expensive world. Dance shoes alone cost \$24,000 a year. The new "Nutcracker" set cost \$70,000, including a Mouse King costume with a \$8,000 price tag.

Solvency depends upon community support: private gifts, corporate donations and ticket sales.

What the audience sees on stage is determined by the artistic directors, who establish a ballet company's distinctive profile. The Jasinskis have built TBT in the Ballet Russe tradi-

tion. That means classical ballets—"Sleeping Beauty," "Swan Lake," "Giselle"—are performed exactly as they were under Diaghilev, the great visionary of 20th century ballet. "Down to the way the little finger is held," Miss Larkin said. "You don't tamper with the classics."

The remarkable Jasinskis are as fascinating as a ballet itself.

Their story begins with Eva Matlagova, a young Russian dancer touring through Oklahoma in a Broadway show, who met and married Reuben "Running Turtle" Larkins, a Shawnee-Peoria Indian. Their daughter, Moscelyne, was born in Miami, studied dance in New York, daringly auditioned for the Original Ballet Russe, and joined the company at 15 to become a ballerina.

She fell in love with the Ballet Russe's premier danseur, Roman Jasinski from Warsaw, Poland, and they were married on tour in Buenos Aires. He had planned to become an engineer until a childhood friend, a ballet student, declared that the shape of his foot made him a potential dancer. Jasinski was accepted from a field of 300 for the Warsaw Opera Ballet School and began a dancing career noted for one of the most extensive repertoires of any living dancer.

Returning to the United States, the Jasinskis joined the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo where Moscelyne was the protegee of Alexandra Danilova. She danced leading roles in "Swan Lake" and "Gaité Parisienne." Jasinski received as many as 20 curtain calls and had four ballets created for him by Balanchine.

After their son Roman Jr. was born, they came to Tulsa and opened a ballet school which was the seed of TBT.

"Their high standards of growth

and excellence have become a reality for TBT," ballet board president Terry Williams said. "The citizens are indeed blessed to be the beneficiaries of such dedicated talent and devoted artists."

From Degas paintings to music boxes, the world seems enchanted by ballerinas. Not all female dancers are ballerinas. It is an honorary title bestowed upon some dancers by the public and critics.

A Japanese critic describing the ballerina qualities of Alexandra Danilova wrote, "You are wind and quiet, stone and flowers, everything and nothing."

Yet ballet is a rigorous profession of short careers. Like athletics, dance is a career for those with young, springy bodies.

Injury and age are the dancers' enemies. Few dancers perform past age 40; many stop dancing by 30. "If you are out with an injury for one week," a TBT dancer said, "it takes three weeks to get back in shape."

To put their bodies through unnatural movements—with ease and grace—TBT professional dancers may dance six hours a day in a ritual of daily ballet classes and rehearsals. The classes stretch muscles, develop control and increase exactness while rehearsals perfect upcoming performances. Many teach dance as well.

Melissa Hale, a 26-year-old TBT ballerina, began studying dance with the Jasinskis when she was six. By the age of 10 she was taking dance class every day and had made her

By Connie Cronley

Connie Cronley is managing director for Tulsa Ballet Theatre.





Melissa Hale and Michael Tipton in Tulsa Ballet Theatre's production of "Swan Lake." Photo by R.J. Kumery.




Principal dancer Melissa Hale. Photo by Jon B. Petersen.

stage debut as a mouse in "The Nutcracker." At 16 she danced "The Firebird," one of the most demanding roles for a female dancer. She danced with the American Ballet Theatre in New York for three years, she was a ballerina with the Cincinnati Ballet Company and she appeared in the movie, "The Turning Point."

Michael Tipton, 34-year-old principal dancer, began studying dance at 16. This is late for a dance career, but he had the advantage of childhood gymnastic training. He has danced with Harkness Ballet Company, the National Ballet of Holland, the Netherlands Dans Theatre and Joffrey Ballet. Last season for TBT he danced the "Afternoon of the Faun," a ballet made famous by Nijinsky. Tipton rehearsed at least 60 hours for the 11-minute performance. A static role is particularly demanding, he said with a laugh. "There's a saying among dancers, 'Give me something to do and I'll be wonderful, but don't make me just stand there.'"

Nobody will be just standing there during the 1981-82 season, an ambitious schedule that includes six performances of "The Nutcracker," an evening of ballets by Balanchine, a guest performance by the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and a ballet with special guest artists in the spring.

The TBT season opens Sept. 26-27 with the popular ballet, "Coppelia," the story of a doll maker and his creation that comes to life. It is the perfect program for people attending a ballet for the first time, TBT dancers say.

"All you have to do is come," Miss Larkin said, "sit back and let us entertain you." 

TULSA BALLET THEATRE SCHEDULE

Sept. 26-27	"Coppelia"
Dec. 19-24	"The Nutcracker"
Feb. 6-7	Performance, Lawton
Feb. 13-14	"An Evening of Balanchine"
Apr. 17-18	"Balletics"

All Tulsa performances are held in the Performing Arts Center.

Dancers in "A Polish Tribute to Oklahoma," choreographed by Roman Jasinski as a tribute to his adopted state. Photo by R.J. Kumery.

STRIPER! STRIPER!

By Max Eggleston



Soon after Mike Slevin and I cleared the harbor at Texoma State Park, I sensed a subtle change in the weather. The pre-dawn blackness gathered under the hills to the east was wearing a halo of pale lemon light.

My ESP began clicking like static electricity. The waters of Lake Texoma reflected the thin haze overhead. The nebulous veil would last up into the morning and subdue the light. The Creator had fashioned a "classic."

A light breeze ruffled the surface, and the water had taken on a metallic sheen. The waves rolling out smoothly from my boat's wake twisted into fluid bars.

It was not all imagination when my mind dredged up visions of stripers cruising slowly below the surface of the lake. I could feel their presence, much like human predators might feel the nearness of a shark. Thoughts of this great fish triggered my imagination. Did "Jaws" use his magic and infiltrate Texoma in the dead of night, his eyes gleaming to light the way? Did he come to teach our stripers the deadly art of stalking their prey?

Drawing on my experience with stripers the past four years, and remembering what I had read about them, I knew that the trait of survival was locked deep within the genes passed on by the stripers' tidal ancestors.

"Jaws" could return to the deeps from whence he came. The striper will take care of himself just as he has for millions of years.

The symmetry of the lines running the full length of its body sets the gregarious striper apart from all other fish. Facing extinction on the Atlantic Coast due to noxious chemicals loosed into its freshwater spawning grounds, this gallant fish has found sanctuary in Oklahoma's lakes and streams.

When Oklahoma first stocked the striped bass in Lake Texoma, the biologists thought the fishery might depend for its continued success on a "put-and-take basis." Seine samplings soon confirmed natural spawns of the striper in the huge lake. The fishery rapidly gained national recognition.

When the striper is on the prowl, he's a fish for everybody. Family groups are hooked on striper fishing



— mom, dad, the kids, gramp and grandma. Fishermen frustrated by the prima donna black bass turn to the striper and proclaim it, “my kind of fish.”

The striper is an all-season fish. Black bass have definite seasons, but the striper, being very tolerant of cold water, knows no season. In fact, fall and winter have become favorite times for fishing the hardy critters.

Those who don't want to brave the chill winds of winter find fishing solace in the months of July, August and September in the big waters off West Burns Run, Washita Point and on both sides of the Frisco Bridge, minutes away from Lake Texoma Lodge.

Fishermen wade the rock ledge jutting out from the rock-bound shore of Soldier Creek during the spring months. Plush homes and manicured lawns in the area contrast sharply with the antics of the rowdy stripers blasting topwater baits ripped across the surface by early morning fishermen.

During December, a cruise early in the morning into Limestone Creek, east of Buncombe, may prove rewarding. If the gulls are wheeling and diving near the gravel bar at the back of Limestone Creek, you can make book that big stripers are in a feeding frenzy.

My wandering thoughts returned to the present when in the pre-dawn gloom I saw our running lights mirrored in the dark waters. The red and green reflections bounced off the myriad ripples and twisted into zigzag patterns of fractured lightning.

A mini-second later a striper drove a shad to the surface and shattered the scene like a dropped jigsaw puzzle. Mike and I saw the water twist into a maelstrom where the fish fed.

The message to feed went out to all stripers simultaneously; geysers

spouted, broad tails slapped against the water and the resounding reports could be heard from far off.

Mike heaved his Big Mac bait into the center of a geyser causing a secondary blast of such magnitude that the original eruption seemed like a squirt from a drinking fountain.

I saw the water boil as a striper attacked Mike's bait. The only sound now was the drag groaning on his reel as the powerful fish ripped line from it. I saw the rod buck in Mike's hands.

Mike finally played his fish close to the boat where it spent its dwindling strength to swish its tail and send water gushing to the surface. I stood up and admired the subtle hues of the fish enhanced by a magical combination of dark water and filtered light.

I took note of the lines running the full length of its body; the golden sheen of the scales, seldom seen, and the overall symmetry of its perfection. I felt a momentary pang of shame that we had conquered such a gallant creature.

This is the way it's always been — the way it should be.

When the fish floundered belly up,

I gaffed it and swung it aboard. There were primeval stirrings in my memory banks. I resisted the urge to gloat and beat my chest as I stood over the vanquished fish.

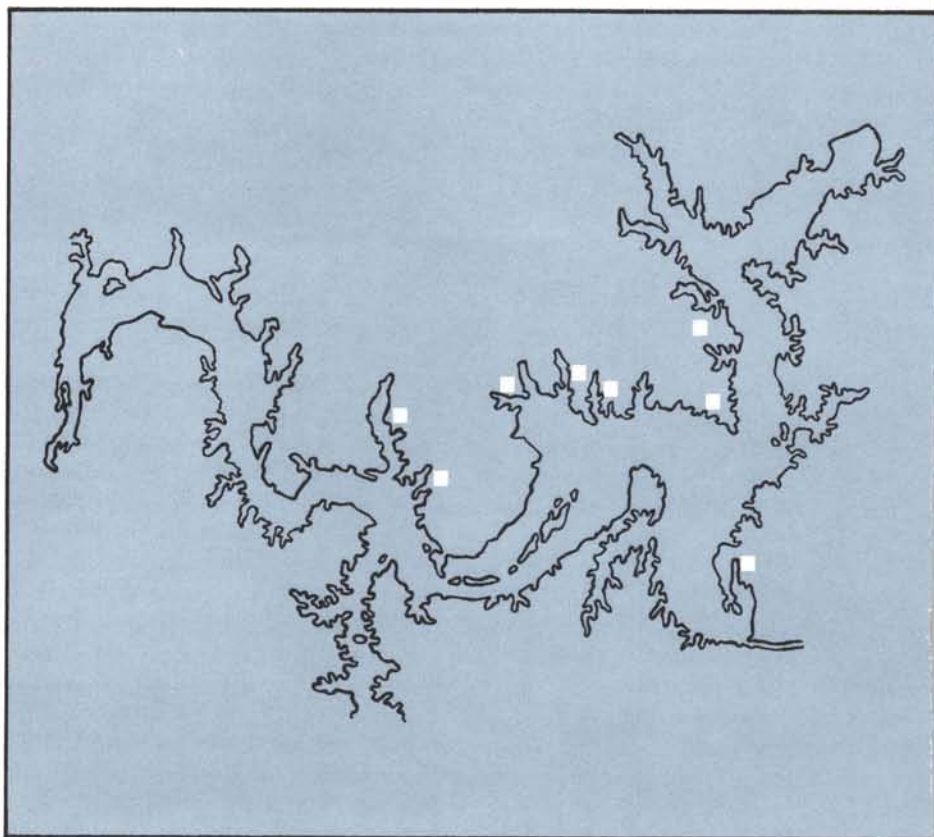
This trait is in all of us. We inherited it from our ancestors, the greatest predators on the face of the earth. Had they not been, they would have fallen prey to the sabertoothed tiger and the shark.

Once more a striper followed close behind Mike's bait, the water humping and flowing smoothly over the fish's broad back as it cruised a few inches beneath the surface.

Mike stopped his bait dead in the water. The fish kept its distance. He laid there finning ever so slowly for a brief span of time, gradually quickening the beat of its tail much like a cat preparing to pounce on a mouse.

Now at full power the striper surged forward and smashed head-on at the floating bait and spent his rage in one violent attack. A shower of silver sprayed the air.

Mike and I were sated with excitement. Our fever for the hunt was cooled. We could return to the clans and bask in the praise of the hungry who tend the caves.



Recreation for the Handicapped



Marty Bos enjoys a ride on her favorite horse, Boulder, at Coffee Creek Riding Center. Photo by Fred Marvel.

IT WORKS WONDERS

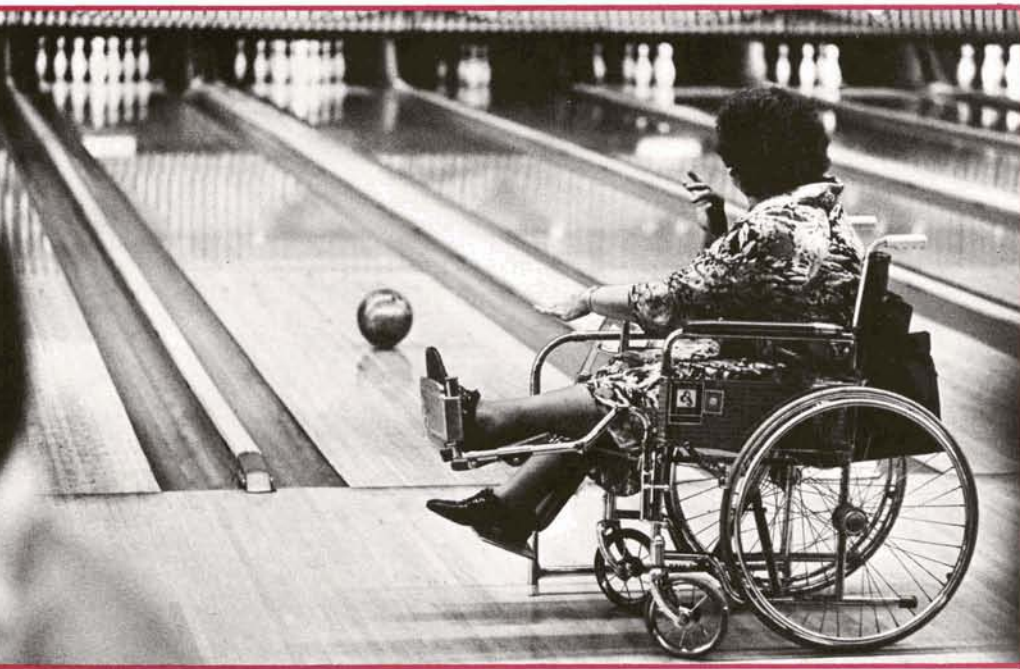
Katie Hooe, 43, rides horses and swims. Eddie Beesley, 35, plays basketball and races. Mike Bos, 22, shoots pictures.

But they have one thing in common. They were once able-bodied. Now they are among the more than 11 million working-age Americans with permanent physical disabilities in this, the International Year of Disabled Persons.

Katie Hooe's life changed on May 16, 1979. It was an ordinary day. Clear. Sunshine. And wind. That wind blew misfortune for Katie, an aircraft mechanic at Tinker Air Force Base. She and a fellow mechanic were work-

ing on a flight line beyond a hangar. Suddenly, a gust of wind caught a 900-pound tool cabinet and blew it over, pinning Katie under it. As her co-worker tried to lift the cabinet off her, another gust of wind caught it, and the cabinet landed on his foot, trapping them both.

Katie remembers intense pain and not being able to move. Her back was broken, and she is paralyzed from the waist down. A doctor told her that she would be bound to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. Katie escaped the wheelchair. She gets about with leg braces and crutches, but she sheds both when she rides a horse. Her doc-



Laura Clayton, who bowls regularly with a group organized by the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled, watches her ball head for a strike. Photo by Fred Marvel.

Loyal and Doris LaPlante of Tulsa (Far right) explore the Murrell Home Nature Trail in Tahlequah. The $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile state trail is paved and suitable for use by the handicapped. Photo by Fred Marvel.

Vietnam veteran Eddie Beesley reaches for the ball during a tennis lesson with a group in Edmond. Photo by Roger Artman.

tor prescribed swimming and horseback riding, referring her to the Coffee Creek Riding Center north of Edmond, which provides therapeutic riding for the handicapped. The riding has helped to improve her balance and has done wonders for her morale.

Eddie Beesley dropped out of Biggs High School in 1963 to join the Marines. In May 1965, he was among the first ground troops sent into Vietnam.

The war didn't last long for Eddie, but he has a constant reminder of it. He lost both legs and is confined to a wheelchair.

But Eddie brought home a high school diploma and subsequently got a degree in elementary education. They weren't hiring handicapped teachers then, so Eddie went to work for the Veterans Hospital in Oklahoma City. Today, he runs his own adaptive equipment business in Edmond. On the side, he organizes and participates in sports for the handicapped.

Mike Bos was 19 when he had a head-on collision on a one-lane bridge. He suffered a brain stem injury and lay in a coma for eight weeks. In the three years since his accident, Mike has learned to walk and talk again, yet his speech and mobility remain impaired. He recently completed a photography course and plans to free lance.

About three million Americans are born with physical disabilities, but there are millions more who have become disabled, like Katie, Eddie and Mike. Then age disables some.

Unlike the old days when the disabled were secluded or ignored, there are now organizations and facilities to help them become productive citizens and involve them in various forms of recreation.

Coffee Creek Riding Center is an example. It began four years ago when Joy Milligan gave up a career as a medical technologist and began giving riding instruction to those with mental, emotional and physical disabilities. Her mother—Lucille Fancey of the Lost Hound Hunt Farm—supplied the place and the animals.

Now, the center owns six horses. Supported by contributions and grants, its therapeutic riding services are free, and its clientele includes special education classes from public schools in Edmond and Oklahoma City. The center recently acquired a vaulting horse and trained a vaulting team which gives demonstrations.

Although therapeutic riding for the handicapped is relatively new in this country, it has existed for years in Europe. There is one other facility in Oklahoma, Leeward Horizons located near Jenks.

Recreation for the handicapped is a growing phenomenon in Oklahoma,



motivated in part by the International Year of Disabled Persons. Other motivation comes from people like Eddie Beesley and his wife, Connie.

Eddie helped to organize and was captain of a wheelchair basketball team—Okie Spokesmen. As members of the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association, they also promote wheelchair tennis and track and field activities, including the javelin, shotput, discus, archery, arm wrestling, swimming, bowling and obstacle course racing.

The Beesleys hope to see Oklahoma send a team to the International Wheelchair Games in 1984. With three years to recruit and train wheelchair athletes, they think a team will be ready.

The Beesleys are also movers and shakers in raising public awareness for the disabled. In May, they recruited able-bodied business and professional people to spend one day in wheelchairs. Among them was State Rep. Neal McCaleb, who admits he cheated to overcome certain barriers. He wound up the day with skinned knuckles, a cut finger and a new respect for those really bound to wheelchairs.

Another promoter of wheelchair sports is Phil Stinebuck of Tulsa, who last year organized the Green Country Wheelchair Sports Association. Its aim is to have 50 or more teams from Oklahoma and Arkansas involved in track, marathon races, swimming, shotput, javelin and weightlifting.

Also offering recreation for the handicapped is the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled in far north Oklahoma City. It buses almost 400 disabled people to the center twice a week. Now in its 21st year, the foundation is open to any handicapped person for a small membership fee. It has a swimming pool and a whirlpool, both with wheelchair ramps. Director Madeline Reed said it offers instruction in art, music and drama by professional teachers.

The foundation's pool is open in summer only. The rest of the year, bowling is its most popular offering. Each Friday, three specially equipped buses transport 70 to the bowling alley. Some bowlers are blind, and one has no hands.

Recreation works wonders for the



handicapped. One foundation patron, among its first group of handicapped in 1960, is still enrolled. When she first entered the program, she could not feed herself. She learned to feed herself, learned to write with her toes, does ceramics and bowls.

"So many feel that life is over, and then they come into our program and see others who are worse off," Reed said.

The foundation, supported entirely by contributions, also takes the handicapped to summer camp near Guthrie, where they can experience the outdoors. The foundation is currently developing a barrier-free park adjacent to its building on North Walker.

A similar facility, the Tulsa Recreation Center for the Physically Limited, has almost 1,200, from age 6 to 90, in its program. In addition to center activities, the staff also takes groups to Camp Takatoka near Wagoner and to the New Life Camp near Siloam Springs, Ark.

The growing sensitivity to handicapped needs has led the state to make its parks more accessible. One example is the nature trail in the Little River State Park near Norman. It was laid out with gentle inclines to accommodate people in wheelchairs and the aged. And there is a paved nature trail for the handicapped at the George Murrell House near Tahlequah.

Cities have been slower to make their parks accessible. Accessibility, according to Ernest Simpson, director of the Office of Handicap Concerns, usually means there are wheelchair ramps from parking lots and restrooms large enough to allow for maneuvering a wheelchair. His office recently surveyed Turner Turnpike facilities and found none which was accessible.

Some motels, restaurants, museums and theaters are becoming accessible to handicapped.

Accessibility to recreation and entertainment improves the quality of life for the handicapped, builds morale and adds to their productivity. And that's good to know, since 70 percent of the population is destined at some time in life to have a temporary disability. Moreover, 15 percent will have serious permanent disabilities—like Katie, Eddie and Mike.

By Junetta Davis

Junetta Davis is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Oklahoma.

A photograph of a suburban street lined with large, leafy trees. The road is paved and leads into the distance. A car is visible further down the road, and another car is parked on the left side. The scene is dappled with sunlight and shadows from the trees.

ANYONE GOT

Kent Ruth's brick collection is displayed on his patio in Geary. Photo by Paul Lefebvre.

ARRY A. NATION BRICK?



With BRICK-red hair—and temper to match—he rejects his boss’s criticism. No GoldBRICKER, he. He storms out of the plant and hits the BRICKS.

Meanwhile, with a figure once referred to as being stacked like a BRICK outhouse—and a character equally solid, she sticks by him . . . a real BRICK.

All of which—unless we’re a few BRICKS shy of a load—suggests but a few ways this humble ageless building block has worked its way into our language and social awareness.

As well it might. The brick is easy to make, relatively inexpensive, and enduring—three hard-to-beat qualities in any building material. Which explains its wide use over the ages.

In this country bricks were first made in 1612 in Virginia although sun-dried “adobes” were made in the Spanish Southwest well before that. Brickmaking in what is now Oklahoma may well have begun in the Tahlequah area 140 years ago.

The handsome brick-columned Cherokee Female Seminary opened at nearby Park Hill in 1851. It burned in 1887, but still standing today as a

dramatic feature of the Tsa-La-Gi complex are three of its broken columns. Distinctive wedge-shaped bricks were carefully designed to create these massive round pillars. And one of them is a point-with-pride item in the brick hoard of any serious collector.

BRICK collecting? But of course. How else can you pick up little bits of history and lore so painlessly? Looking at a CHICKASHA, I.T. and a HENNESSEY, O.T. can remind you that the Canadian River separated Indian Territory on the south from Oklahoma Territory on the north. Just as comparing a CHANDLER, O.T. and a CHANDLER, OKLA. should remind you of statehood in 1907, the 75th anniversary of which we’ll be celebrating all next year.

As for the lore, there’s that famous (and true) story of Utah’s Bank of Vernal, made of bricks kilned in Salt Lake City. The bricks were shipped some 400 miles, over two railroads and by a horse-drawn cart, via parcel post. The builder spotted a flukish parcel rate nearly half that of regular freight and by the time far off Washington could make the proper bureaucratic adjustments, he had his needed bricks

By Kent Ruth

Kent Ruth writes history and travel columns for *The Daily Oklahoman* and also is a free-lance writer.

. . . all 5,000 of them!

And what about Carry A. Nation? As the historical marker near the side of her Seiling area log cabin notes, it was here she would "frequently load her buggy with BRICKS and go on her missions of smashing saloons."

And then there is everyone's favorite—DON'T SPIT ON SIDEWALK—which commands a fancy price in the most modest flea market. Inspired by a Dr. Samuel Crumline of the Kansas State Board of Health, the slogan on this brick was the cutting edge of an ambitious turn-of-the-century campaign to halt the spread of tuberculosis. One finds them all across Oklahoma.

Was it effective? "Probably not," a

doctor friend admitted. "But it probably helped improve the looks of the sidewalks."

And that was important. People walked then. The common brick smoothed their walkways, kept them mud free. Soon brickmakers were turning out nicely decorated sidewalk bricks, often with the town's name and/or that of the maker worked proudly into the pattern.

What bricks could do for walks they could also do for streets—solve the alternating problem of dust and mud. Progressive towns and cities across the state were soon paved with these specially designed blocks. Bricks for streets were thicker, with sidewalk designs giving way to nobs and cleats,

the better to prevent horse's hooves from slipping.

Brick streets still remain, of course, in many Oklahoma towns. Laid down at first for convenience, they have proven to be long-lasting and virtually maintenance-free. Now, finally, they are acquiring "heritage value," their possession becoming almost a status symbol.

Pauls Valley started getting out of the mud in 1909 with a \$47,056.21 contract to a Chicago contractor for 17,986 square yards of brick paving. Residential paving was extended in 1920.

Strongly preservation-minded today, Pauls Valley boasts it has more brick streets than any town in the country. Elk City points to brick-paved West Broadway, now becoming a source of local pride, as a Historic Preservation District. Bristow beats back occasional attempts to cover its remaining bricks with asphalt. Even Oklahoma City, still dedicated to "scorched earth" urban renewal, is expressing interest in preserving a bit of brick paving on East California.

At the turn of the century bricks were being put to a new use architecturally, too. The talented mason, not satisfied with just troweling up the traditionally sturdy, plumbline-true business building, felt himself challenged by its tall false-front.

Taking this broad surface as a canvas, he set to work. Simply by using different kinds of bricks, by indenting, tilting, and projecting them, and by combining them now and then with terra cotta tiles and cut-stone slabs, he created intricate, eye-pleasing patterns. Decorative cartouches, columns, arches, pilasters, oriels, corbels, towers, ballustrades, crowning cornices—he did them all.

One finds relics of the brickmason's art all across the state. Especially in those towns where so-called "progress" has touched the downtown areas but lightly. Guthrie, Wagoner, Anadarko, Pauls Valley, El Reno, Chandler, Geary . . . and elsewhere.

Anadarko has suddenly recognized the artistic value of its downtown facades. And Guthrie, after pouting for a half-century and more over loss of the Capitol, has at long last begun to value its many brick treasures, including miles of fine sidewalks.

With everyday citizens recognizing

Pauls Valley



Chandler



the worthiness of bricks—and the importance of preserving representative examples of our “brick heritage”—we brick collectors are seemingly legitimized.

On my desk is a parchment, duly signed and sealed, certifying the “origin and ownership” of a “Huckins Hotel Original Brick. . . Removed from the said Huckins Hotel, which was constructed in the late 1890’s and . . . at one time served as the State Capitol of the State of Oklahoma. . .” You can’t get much more historic preservationist than that!

Ditto for my Cherokee Seminary wedge. And that neat red one there marked “O.S.P.” from the Okie Pokey in McAlester. And my “KUSA” from the Okmulgee County town that has disappeared completely.

And yet, brick collecting is relatively new. And collectors relatively few. How many are there? I asked Ken Ferris, long familiar University of Oklahoma sports figure. Maybe 25-30 “serious ones,” he says.

How many does it take to get “serious” about it? I have some 350, and I would rate myself as only semi-serious. Ken said he had 1,363 different bricks. The preciseness of his figure indicates to me he is a “serious” collector. But perhaps not as serious as Glen Greer of Tulsa. Ken says he bought the collection of a man in Coffeyville who had 3,700 different bricks!

How does one get started collecting bricks? Like collecting thimbles. Or smoking cigarettes, for that matter. First it’s one, then another, and before long you’re hooked.

Ferris decided he wanted a brick from the old Longfellow School he once attended in Muskogee. Until then, he says, he didn’t know bricks even had names on them. But the Longfellow brick he picked up had Muskogee on it. “I’ve been at it ever since.”

Most of us can point to an equally innocuous seduction. I first noted the O.T., I.T. differentness. And the history buff in me responded.

But why should we apologize or explain? Bricks have long played an important economic role in Oklahoma. Few indeed are the Oklahoma towns that have not had a brick plant at one time or another. Not all of them, alas, gave their bricks a distinguishing mark.



Old paving bricks contrast with the contemporary design of the Bristow Municipal Building. Photo by Fred Marvel.

Luke Robison in his recently published book on Oklahoma brickmaking, *Made Out-A Mud*, identifies over 50 Oklahoma towns that once had brick yards. And at least 34 of them produced bricks with identifying marks. These, with variations and errors, give the collector a fertile field. Getting the “S” and “N” turned around is a common error. But, as a friend with first-hand experience once explained: “Hell, what can you expect from someone with no more sense than to work in a brickyard?”

We keep on collecting.

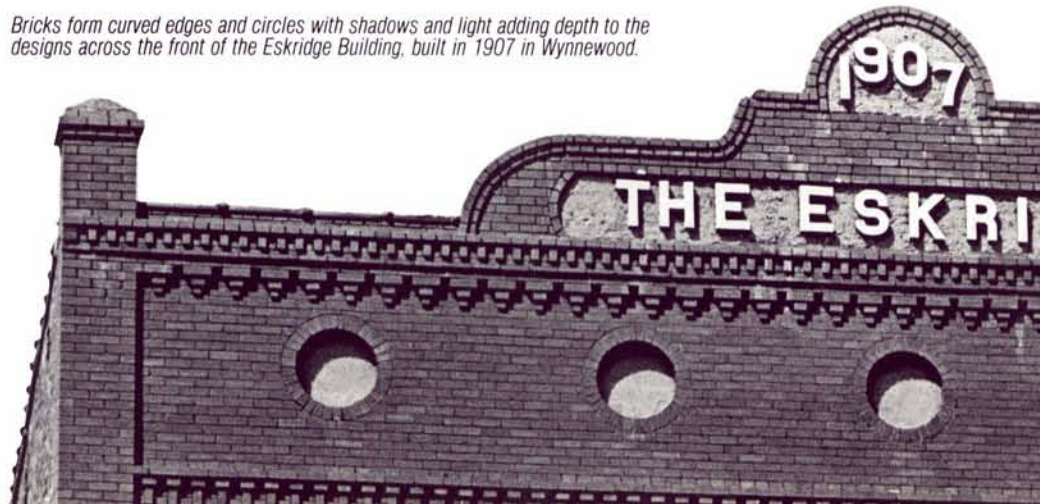
Just as Acme keeps on making.

Said now to be the largest brick maker in the United States, Acme turns out some 850,000,000 of them a year in Oklahoma and four other states. And Oklahoma Brick will soon have a capacity of better than 100,000,000 a year. If and when either firm makes a mistake, of course, it will become another “collector’s item.”

But secretly I’m looking for a genuine Carry Nation brick. One duly certified as having been tossed by Carry herself—say through the back bar of the Tom Mix Saloon in Guthrie.

Now that would really make a brick collection.

Bricks form curved edges and circles with shadows and light adding depth to the designs across the front of the Eskridge Building, built in 1907 in Wynnewood.

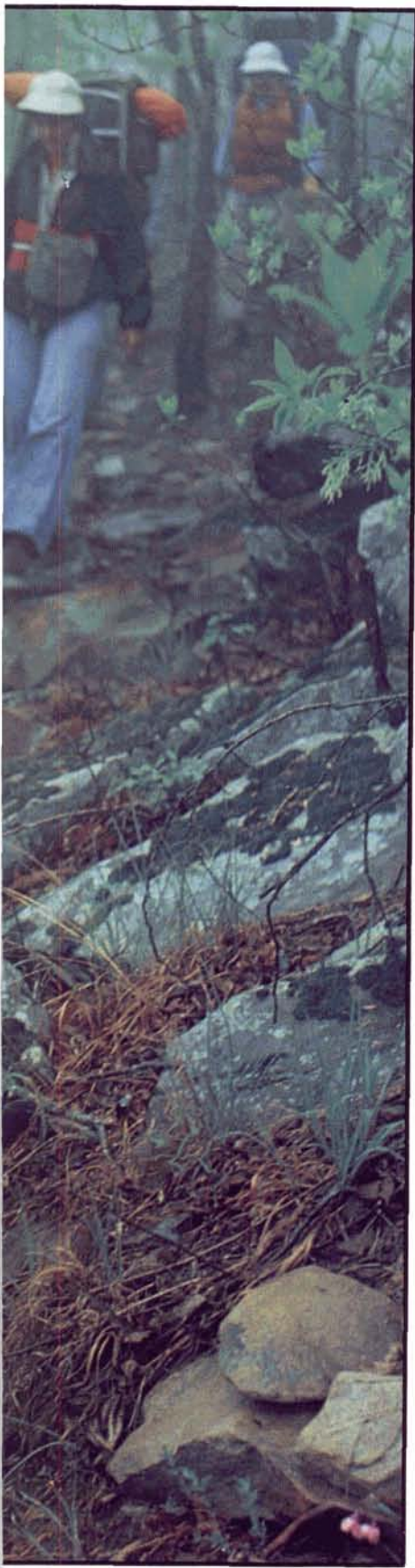


THE OUACHITAS: A NATURAL



Wanda Artman is followed by Linda Moore as they climb the trail up Rich Mountain. Photo by Roger Artman.

REASURE



For thousands of backpackers, that name rings with the same magic as *Sesame*, opening up the mountainsides to adventure.

The southeastern Oklahoma town of Talihina is the western portal for the National Recreation Trail which winds its way through Ouachita National Forest for 175 miles from Talimena State Park to Lake Sylvia, near Little Rock, Ark.

For the first 16 miles, the Ouachita Trail parallels, to the north and then south, Talimena Scenic Drive, named for Talihina and its eastern terminus, Mena, Ark. For those interested only in experiencing the mountains by car, this 54-mile drive has been acclaimed as one of the most beautiful stretches in the United States. While the drive continues to hug the ridges of Winding Stair and Rich Mountains, the trail drops to the south near Winding Stair Lake, passing over Wilton Mountain and crossing the Kiamichi Valley north of Pine Mountain to return to the Talimena Drive at the state line.

The Ouachitas, Choctaw for "hunting trip," are aptly named. Deer, wild turkey, marvelously acrobatic soaring birds and—on rare occasions—bear inhabit the forest. In late spring, the trail becomes a kaleidoscope of fire-pinks, phlox, spiderwort and pansies, but even more breathtaking is the autumn display of red, gold, yellow and orange splashing the countryside.

The peak of this "fall color" season on the trail is swiftly approaching. From Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 the trees are usually at their most glorious. But the trail is open year 'round for serious backpackers or for those who simply want a weekend "away from it all."

Members of OklahomAnklExpress, an Oklahoma City-based hiking club, braved storms last spring to enjoy just such a weekend. This club has cleared, marked and now maintains the 20-mile trail around Greenleaf Lake near Muskogee. It also built most of the Little River Trail at Lake Thunderbird. "But the Ouachita Trail is, without a doubt, one of the most beautiful in the state," Don DeSteiguer, OAE president, admits.

Like modern day Ali Babas, club members went in search of Rich Mountain's natural treasure and were amply rewarded. Hiking from the state line checkpoint west and south to the Kiamichi River valley, they make backpacking sound like a fairy tale come true. Step by step, we can follow them on the trail as they "walk through spring."

Winter-grey trees shake the last shreds of morning fog from skeleton branches as the hikers slip through a gap in the forest along Talimena Scenic Drive and onto the trail. While Don DeSteiguer logs the group in on the sign-up roster, hike members make final adjustments to their backpacks, giving a comfort-seeking hitch of the shoulders to settle the 35 pounds of gear. Then, bright blue and orange nylon humps bobbing behind their heads, the group descends on their two day appointment with nature.

Small rivulets of spring runoff criss-cross the brown carpet of last year's leaves on the trail, and the hikers step from stone to stone over them. The colorful splash of wildflowers hasn't yet brightened the path; indeed, the trees along the ridge are bare. But as the trail drops from one switchback to another—1,700 feet in the first mile—the signs of spring progress as though the hikers are in some incredible time tunnel.

First, tight buds, waxy and yellow-green appear on the oaks and hickory. A few more yards and fragile leaves begin to unfold, making the short needle pines less conspicuous in their greenery. Soon, dogwood blossoms perfume the air while shoots of green push through the mulch of dead leaves.

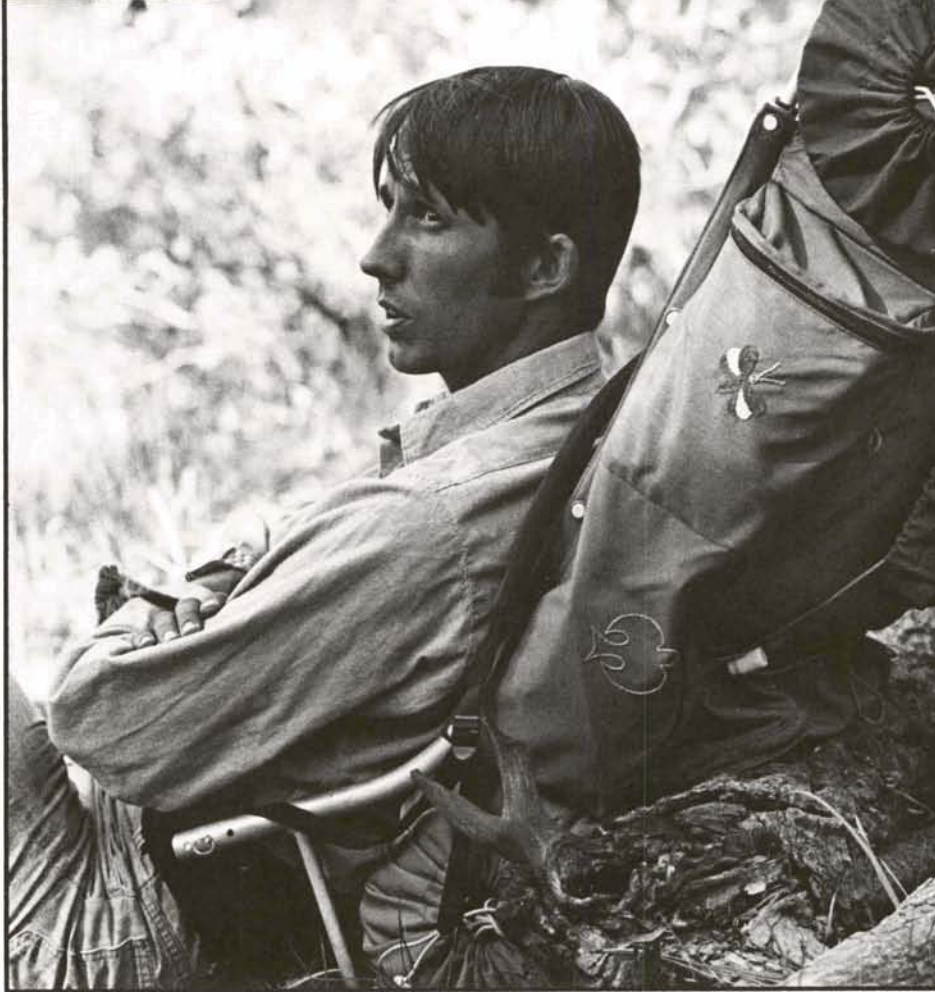
Halfway down, the group pauses at a lookout spot situated on one of the hairpin curves to see a preview of full-blown spring on the valley floor. Directly opposite is Pine Mountain. Sheltered from the prevailing south winds and with richer soil, it makes a darker mirror image of the gradual greening they experience.

In October, this hike reversed up the mountain will give the same pleasure of walking into autumn. For now, the hikers are both soothed and



Dwayne and Pam Stutzman pause for a little first-aid relief for a new blister. (Above) Photo by Roger Artman.

Carl King leans back to enjoy the scenery and rest the weight of his backpack. (Right) Photo by Roger Artman.



Bill Englehart watches his wife, Lynn, perform a balancing act on one of the many stream crossings along the Ouachita trail. Photo by Roger Artman.

By Kathleen Kunz

Kathleen Kunz is a Norman free-lance writer



tions of trail near campgrounds is a safer bet.

Equipment for an autumn weekend on the trail might include a sleeping bag, with possibly an Ensolite pad for the tender-boned; a lightweight backpack tent with rainfly; a camper's stove and fuel; high energy food (about 1½ pounds per day) and cooking/eating utensils; matches, flashlight and batteries and first aid kit. This should include bandaids, insect repellent, antiseptic, aspirin and moleskin for those spots which inexplicably begin to rub against the boot once you hit the trail. Poisonous snakes are indigenous to the area, making a snakebite kit a necessary precaution. Finally, that greatest necessity: water.

"We assume all our hikes to be on dry trails," DeSteiguer warns, "therefore our packs include eight to 10 pounds of water for a weekend." Water sources on the Ouachita Trail are not necessarily pure and may disappear altogether during dry spells.

Some other safety absolutes to help you enjoy the trip: stoves are safer and more convenient on the trail; likewise prudent disposal of smoking materials may save your life, wildlife and the forest. Always file your itinerary with a friend and use the sign-in rosters located at intervals on the trail. Never overestimate the number of miles you can cover daily. Richard Hudson, resource assistant at the Talihina Ranger Station, recommends estimating "how far you will travel in a day, then cut that estimate by 25 per cent. On longer hikes, it's best to use two vehicles and hike towards transportation at all times."

Ouachita National Forest may be reached by traveling east of McAlester on SH 1 to Talihina. As this route enters the forest, it becomes the Talihina Scenic Drive. Even as you stop at the information booth to secure maps and last minute weather reports, the treasures of autumn in the Ouachitas will be spread around you: ruby, topaz, carnelian, garnet, emerald—Ali Baba, eat your heart out!



exhilarated by the sound of water trickling out of rocks to feed the Kiamichi below.

Down in the valley after lunch, it is time to relax and enjoy the warm sun on the huge rocks at riverside. Ron Johnson, today's trail leader, chats with a group of young hikers from Oral Roberts University. They trade useful trail information.

The hikers pitch camp several miles farther up the valley, being sure to choose ground high above the water. Soon the aroma of beef stew mingles with the pinewood scent around them. The bags feel cozy and rainshowers play off-and-on lullabies on tenttops. By the time they finish breakfast, though, the rain is gone and another sparkling day of hiking through fresh growth and sandstone boulders brings them out east of Pashubbe Creek onto Route 63 where they have left their car.

They do not travel their usual distance this time; it is Easter Sunday and the evening service at a Talihina church will be graced by several tired but happy visitors, obviously unconcerned about "Sunday best" and new Easter bonnets.

Sound like fun?

If you are looking for backpacking thrills, the Ouachita Trail has them aplenty. Camping is allowed anywhere along the trail or throughout the forest, but the U.S. Forest Service operates several campgrounds which can be used for base camps. All of these can be reached by car.

Winding Stair and Emerald Vista campgrounds provide picnic facilities, restrooms and drinking water as does Billy Creek campground, which also offers swimming and fishing. Cedar Lake campground is more comprehensive; besides the above it offers firegrates, a bathhouse, showers and a boat dock. A horse camp is also located here, with some excellent riding trails in the area nearby.

Another attraction on the trail is the Robert S. Kerr Nature Center and Arboretum, containing its own marked trails identifying species of trees and shrubs.

The entire family can enjoy a weekend on the trail, providing children are old enough to appreciate hiking and the pace is slow enough to accommodate them. With most children under 10, sticking close to those por-

ARTIST WEAVES CHEROKEE CULTURE INTO BASKETS

By Judith Wall

Judith Wall is director of University of Oklahoma alumni publications.



Her fingers are strong and calloused. Their practiced movements deftly weave and bend the reeds until they take on a form of their own.

As she works, the Cherokee basket weaver explains each step and speaks of her desire to preserve the old crafts and bring the culture of her tribe to all people.

From a handful of moist reeds, Mavis Doering weaves a basket. It is handsome and unique. There has never been another basket exactly like it, and never will be.

Many consider them to be works of art—her baskets with their graceful lines, soft muted colors and designs representing Cherokee legend or traditions.

"I try to create something with a life of its own, something with a story," says the resident of Oklahoma City. "I try to put something of my tribal culture into each basket."

Basket weaving is as old as the tribes. Baskets have always been a part of Indian life.

"Indians didn't have suitcases," Doering says with a smile. "We used baskets instead. They were our storage boxes. We fished with them. We gathered food in them."

Baskets and other Indian crafts have long been used to preserve the culture of the tribes. The designs on baskets, pottery, blankets, clothing, tools and ornaments are full of symbolism.

Doering's baskets are no different. And to make sure its future owner understands the story behind its design and that it was made using traditional methods, she tucks a written explanation inside each basket.

"Painters can paint their thoughts into paintings," Doering explains. "I like my baskets to say something, too, to have a story behind them. I like to make them special."

Where did she learn to design and make her special baskets?

Not at the knee of some venerable tribeswoman who was passing on her knowledge and skill to the next generation. That would have been the traditional way for her to have learned, but nowadays it is difficult to find skilled Cherokee basket weavers of any generation.

Doering had to learn out of books much of what her ancestors learned by example. She did attend a Native American workshop on basket weaving in 1973 and learned enough to get started. But it was through her own research at libraries and museums that she discovered the forgotten intricacies of Cherokee basket weaving.

Her desire to produce authentic baskets led her away from the use of commercial dyes and weaving materials. As she read about the old ways and studied ancient baskets preserved in the state's museums, she began to experiment with making her own materials and dyes from native Oklahoma plants.

Many of the plants she uses in her baskets Doering gathers near her mother's home at Tahlequah. She makes her dyes from pecan, walnut and hickory nut hulls; peach, wild cherry and wild plum leaves; and pokeberries, huckleberries and elderberries. To extract dyes, some of these must be boiled and others soaked for long periods of time. The resulting dyes are strained and stored in large jars for future use. Thus far, she has been able to obtain a full range of colors with the exception of bright red.

For her weaving materials, she gathers buck brush and cattail blades

from along creek bottoms. Her husband cuts thin strips from oak trees and gathers honeysuckle runners for her.

Doering's mother, who lives on her original Indian allotment, helps her daughter boil the honeysuckle runners in a big black kettle placed over an open fire.

Some of the materials can be gathered only at certain seasons of the year and must be accumulated in sufficient quantity to last until the next year.

With the gathering, preparation and storage of the weaving materials and dyes, many hours are invested in each basket before the actual weaving begins.

Doering plans the designs for her baskets on graph paper, a modern aid to facilitate transferring traditional designs to woven form. Designs such as "double chief's daughter" and "man in coffin" are based on Cherokee legends.

Then comes the actual weaving. All Cherokee baskets are double-walled, meaning the inside is woven from bottom to top, then the baskets ribs folded over and an outside wall is woven in place. The resulting basket is not only sturdy, but smooth and finished-looking both inside and out.

The shaping of each basket is done by bending the ribs uniformly as the weaver starts up the sides, which can be straight-walled or round. One type of basket, called round-on-square, has a square bottom and a round top.

Doering decorates many of her baskets with feathers or leather thongs strung with turquoise beads. Some baskets are decorated with seven feathers representing the seven Cherokee clans.

Her baskets have brought the Indian artist quite a following, according to Imogene Mudd of the Oklahoma Art Center. Mudd says that Native American basket weavers are hard to find, especially ones as talented as Mavis Doering.

Doering's baskets are included in the Oklahoma Indian Art Show held each July and August at the Art Center, which is located on the State Fair Grounds in Oklahoma City. And Doering's baskets are for sale year-round in the center's sales gallery.

Baskets by Doering will be featured





A new basket begins to take shape as Mavis Doering weaves the split oak into a traditional Cherokee design. Photos by Tom Galloway.

in the Art From the Earth Show to be held at the Galleria in Norman during October. This show exhibits art by professional Indian artists.

The Galleria also sells Doering's baskets throughout the year. Galleria owner Reba Olsen says that the Cherokee woman's baskets are highly prized for their soft, natural colors and for the symbolism incorporated into their designs.

Doering baskets are also sold at Anderson's Antiques and Art Gallery in Oklahoma City and at several locations in New Mexico. Her work is routinely included in many Native American art shows held throughout the Southwest.

Such success has brought a large demand for her baskets — a demand that is increasingly difficult for her to meet. Doering may work an entire week on just one basket. It is not a process that can be hurried.

And there are few finished baskets decorating the Doering home. Mavis sells them all — at prices ranging from \$30 to \$400.

The money is nice. But Doering also enjoys knowing that she is helping to keep alive the culture of her people.

One of her favorite designs is woven into what Doering calls friendship baskets. The design of these baskets represents Cherokee people holding hands. The center of each soft-colored figure is left the natural color of the weaving material to symbolize the great heart of the Cherokee people.

Friendship and heart — there's a lot of both that go into Mavis Doering's baskets. She shares her talent and her Cherokee heritage through the craft she has mastered so well.

Various roots and nuts are boiled to make the natural dyes for Mavis Doering baskets. Black walnuts produce the lighter shades, while some of the roots make darker colors.



FFA ISN'T JUST FOR FARMERS ANYMORE

By Ron Wilkerson

Ron Wilkerson is public information officer for the State Dept. of Vocational and Technical Education, Stillwater



From being a shy, overweight high school freshman, tagged "Wide-Load" by classmates, to becoming the national president of a half-million member student organization is quite a journey.

It's a journey that emphasizes the importance of setting goals for himself, stresses Mark Herndon, national president of the Future Farmers of America.

Mark, who was elected to the office at the 53rd National FFA Convention last November in Kansas City, Mo., is a native of Oklahoma City.

During his year as national president, Mark expects to travel some 300,000 miles while representing the nation's largest and oldest vocational student organization.

"I travel across the country, not only meeting and motivating FFA members, but also meeting and visiting with leaders of government, business and industry to sell them on the FFA," Mark said.

That shy, overweight freshman of 1974 has truly shed his cocoon. He radiates warmth and a quiet enthusiasm, and he has blossomed into a dynamic public speaker.

It wasn't always so.

"I entered nearly a dozen public speaking contests before I ever placed. But it was a valuable lesson that I needed to learn — that all things are possible through practice and determination," he said.

Mark estimates that he'll spend nearly 300 days on the road promoting the FFA during his term of office. He, along with the other five National FFA officers, has already spent 10 days in France, Germany and Belgium visiting farms and businesses. They discussed agriculture with government officials in these common market countries.

He's also visited with current administration officials such as John Block, secretary of agriculture; Kika De la Garza, chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, and Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee. He's also had meetings with top officials from the DuPont Corporation, Eli Lilly Corp., and Gulf Oil Corp., among others.

Mark's father, Elwood Herndon, an Oklahoma City physician, grew up on a farm in northwest Oklahoma. "He didn't force us to pursue an interest in agriculture, but he and mom have

always supported us in what we've tried to do," Mark said.

His first experience with the FFA came when he was a seventh grader and he helped his sister, Susan, who was then a freshman, care for her sheep project.

"Actually, she dragged me out there to help with her lambs. It seemed like a lot of fun and worthwhile, what with all the encouragement about setting leadership and career goals. I really became interested when I discovered what opportunities were available through the FFA," Mark said. "The FFA has opportunities for everyone. FFA members grow while having fun with FFA-sponsored activities. The FFA also has a strong commitment to develop leadership ability and character and to teach its members how to work effectively with other people."

Mark also believes that FFA has at least part of the answer to the nation's decline in productivity.

"New FFA members are exposed to the work ethic through our motto, 'Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.' The whole FFA program of work is based upon rewarding those who work the

FFA

hardest whether they show the grand champion steer or win first place in a public speaking contest," he said.

FFA also teaches responsibility, Mark said, through competition in leadership contests and by raising animals.

"You know that your fellow members are depending on you to do your best, and your animal is relying on you to feed it," he said.

Based on his past experience, Mark recommends that new members become active immediately.

"Get involved," he said. "It's so much more fun if you jump in head first. Learn everything you can about both agriculture production and about agri-business. Participate in FFA's leadership activities such as public speaking or parliamentary procedure."

During the seven years he's been involved with the FFA, Mark has seen the organization make some dramatic changes. The first girls were admitted to FFA membership in 1969 and since then, more have become active members. Girls have been elected to both state and national FFA offices.

And FFA isn't just for farmers anymore. The organization has shifted its emphasis and realigned its priorities.

"Prior to the late '60s, FFA was involved almost completely in production agriculture. But family farms decreased, more members came from urban and suburban communities, and buying a farm became prohibitively expensive.

"Now, many of our members are pursuing careers in the agri-business field," Mark said.

Dwight Surface said that belonging to FFA in an urban high school can have some advantages over membership in a rural chapter.

"There's a lot of difference between vocational agriculture programs at an urban location like John Marshall and in a rural area," explained Surface, Mark's vocational agriculture instructor. He previously taught at Garber and Nash, both small country schools.

"In rural areas, I was able to visit an FFA member's projects only about once a week. All the planning for the project was done around the kitchen table of the FFA member's home.

"Here, we have a school farm where I see each project twice a day every day. This school farm really promotes a 'family' feeling because members see each other in a relaxed atmosphere each morning and evening when they come to feed and groom their animals. It's almost a social event," Surface said.

The John Marshall school farm consists of five acres located at 97th and Robinson. During the school year, about 50 lambs and about 12 steers are raised there. A new \$265,000 building which houses livestock pens, grooming areas, a show arena, classrooms and offices was dedicated last year.

During his four years as an FFA member in high school, Mark's supervised farming program included showing sheep, steers and hogs. He still owns 11 Polled Hereford cattle and eight Dorset and Suffolk ewes, but he has entrusted their care to relatives and members of the John Marshall FFA chapter while he's committed to the national organization.

Most FFA national officers during its 53-year history have come from the family farm, while Mark was reared in an urban environment. However, he believes his own experiences allow him to understand both rural and urban FFA members.

"Since I live in the city, I have an insight into urban problems, and I can relate to rural youth through my livestock projects."

Six Oklahomans have been elected national FFA president, far more than from any other state. James Bode of Geary became president in 1976.

While serving as national president, Mark has postponed his studies at Oklahoma State University where he is an agriculture economics junior. But after his term ends in November, it's back to the books, he said, for the

start of OSU's second semester.

After graduation, Mark plans to enter law school and eventually to become an attorney specializing in the field of agricultural law.

Although he believes strongly in the importance of setting goals, Mark didn't begin with the goal of becoming national FFA president. But, as one goal was achieved, another always took its place.

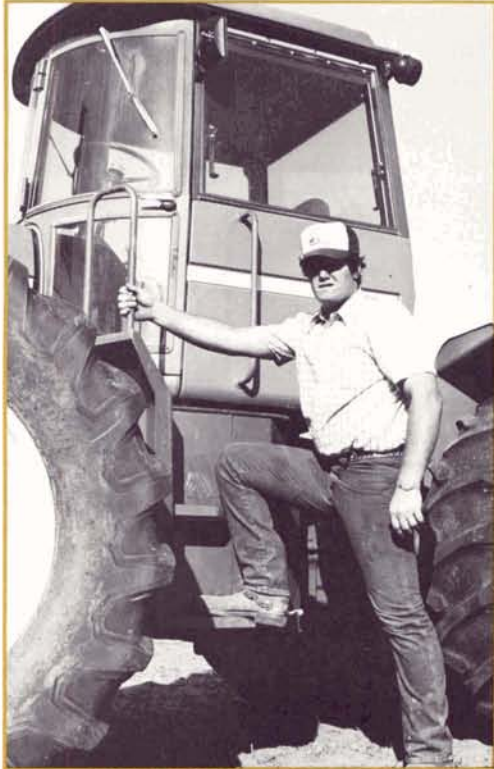
He recalls his first major goal was to be a chapter officer. And he was elected president of the John Marshall FFA chapter his junior year and re-elected when he was a senior. His next goal was to achieve the State Farmer Degree and to run for a state FFA office. He was named State Farmer and elected state central district vice-president in 1979. In 1980, he was elected state president.

Last November, he received the American Farmer degree, an honor reserved for the top FFA members in America.

And then, that one time shy, overweight high school student was installed national president of the Future Farmers of America.

Star Farmer Stephen Buss, (opposite page), prepares the ground before planting wheat, feeds his purebred Gelbvieh cattle and his swine breeding stock. Photos by Paul Lefebvre.

FFA TOP THREE



At least one freshman at Oklahoma State University will begin studying agriculture this fall with more than \$52,000 in farming assets, which is far more than the average student can claim.

Stephen Earl Buss, a recent Pond Creek-Hunter High School graduate, parlayed an outstanding farming program involving wheat, cattle and swine into the highest state FFA honor — the Star Farmer of Oklahoma.

And Buss credits learning to keep good records while an FFA greenhand as central to his success.

"Through accurate records, I know exactly where my margin of profit lies," Buss says. "I use records to help determine how and when to

TOP THREE

market my products. They help me make decisions on rations, culling of poor producers and many other management decisions.”

During his high school years, Buss started a herd of Gelbvieh cattle, an exotic breed from Germany, and he became involved with cross-breeding, showing and judging livestock. He also developed a swine breeding program. By graduation, he owned 133 head of swine and 72 head of cattle.

Buss, who plans to continue farming in the Hunter community after college, share-crops wheat on 160 acres owned by his dad, and he has bought a half-interest in a combine with his profits.

The statewide FFA program involves more than 18,000 teenagers — both boys and girls. Although many are recognized for their achievements

during the year at the annual state FFA convention, three students are particularly honored. These are the winners of the Star Farmer, the Star Agribusinessman and the Agriculture Mechanic's awards.

The Star Agribusinessman of Oklahoma award at last spring's convention went to Oscar Glover of Lawton. Like Stephen Buss, Glover also raises wheat and cattle, but he earned his trophy as an auctioneer for the Lawton Stockyards and the Earl Glover Auctioneering Company. While in FFA, Glover started his herd of Chianina cattle, an exotic breed which he enjoys showing.

Glover earned almost \$12,000 as an auctioneer during his three years in high school. He will major in business and agriculture at Cameron State University and then study law at the

University of Oklahoma.

And like Buss, Glover plans to continue the career he began with FFA, combining his interests in raising cattle and wheat with auctioneering and his new knowledge of business and law.

Brad Foust of Thomas won the Agriculture Mechanics Award, the newest FFA honor, this year. Foust began his agriculture mechanics career doing various types of welding.

While in FFA, Foust constructed everything from corrals and livestock feeders to trailers and picnic tables. His earnings have gone to buy more than \$7,000 worth of equipment, all necessary for the continued success of his job.



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TODAY IN OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Today will join in the Diamond Jubilee celebration of our state's 75th birthday with a very special spring issue in 1982. Designated the official commemorative publication for the Diamond Jubilee, this issue will be a souvenir of lasting value from this important event.

This expanded issue — about three times the usual size — will be filled with beautiful, full-color photos. Stories by some of Oklahoma's top writers will sample each facet of the Oklahoma lifestyle — from agriculture to the arts, from industry to entertainment. We'll consider our unique heritage, but the primary emphasis will be on our state's extraordinary future. Every area of the state will be included.

Although the Diamond Jubilee issue will sell for \$6.95 on the newsstands, our subscribers will receive it as part of their subscription at no additional charge. The Diamond Jubilee Commission has also arranged to make this issue available to civic groups raising funds for Diamond Jubilee projects in their communities.

Theatre Tulsa and Tulsa playwright James Vance will share honors when the group performs at the International Amateur Theatre Association Festival in Monte Carlo Aug. 26-Sept. 5. As winner of the National Festival of American Community Theatres, Theatre Tulsa will represent 16,000 community theatres across the United States.

Although the 60-year-old company has previously won national competition, this will be its first appearance at the international festival. Princess Grace of Monaco will be among the dignitaries in attendance.

Theatre Tulsa will perform an original one-act play, *Stations*, written by Vance. Twenty-four other countries will participate in the festival.

University of Oklahoma alumni who used to enjoy movies at the old Sooner Theatre may want to drop by for a nostalgic visit when they are in Norman for OU's football games this fall. The old theatre, which was built

in 1929, has been renovated for live performances, civic programs and conventions.

Not only has the roof been replaced and the plumbing repaired, but all 825 seats were removed and a 50-year layer of spilled cokes and popcorn cleaned up!

Being restored are 240 different shield designs painted on rectangular plaques and attached to the theatre ceiling. Five stained glass windows also have been restored.

The Cimarron Circuit Opera Co. is tentatively scheduled to reopen the theatre on Oct. 17.

The Woodward Theatre, also built in 1929, is being restored by the Woodward Arts Council for similar use. Dance recitals, concerts, pageants and public meetings will be booked into the old movie theatre beginning in November.

Six baggy pants rodeo clowns and the 52 Miss Rodeo America contestants will share the spotlight during the "Beauty and the Beast" event of the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. The pageant is held Dec. 1-6 at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City, the week before the National Finals Rodeo.

The clowns, who will compete for the national bullfighters championship, will be judged not only on their ability to fight bulls, but also on their ability to protect the rider after he leaves the bull.

Top horsewomen from all 50 states and two Canadian provinces will compete in horsemanship, personality and appearance for the title of Miss Rodeo America. The national pageant headquarters is in Oklahoma City.

At the same time the bullfighters and the beauties are competing, some of the nation's top bulldoggers will be trying to stick on the meanest bulls in rodeo. This allows the clowns to compete. There are three performances of the "Beauty and the Beast" event. It's an exciting evening.

Postscript: All kinds of big name entertainers pitched in to get the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra off on its concert tour of China in August. Among these were Doc Severinson and Roy Clark who combined their musical talents in a fund-raising concert. The group, which was featured in the summer issue of *Oklahoma Today*, is the only high school orchestra ever invited to perform in China.

Fans of dressage, sometimes known as "ballet for horses," can look forward to the first United States Dressage Federation Championships to be held Oct. 23-25 at the State Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City.

A prestigious event in the Olympics since 1912, dressage is the art of training horses to perform all movements in a balanced, supple and obedient manner.

The championships will feature about 80 horses from across the country who have qualified in local and regional competition.

Other major horse shows scheduled for Oklahoma City this fall include the Grand National Morgan Horse Show, the World Appaloosa Horse Show, the World Quarter Horse Show and the National Finals Rodeo.

One of the largest land drilling rigs in the world, owned by Parker Drilling Co. of Tulsa, is currently working outside Elk City in the heart of the Anadarko Basin. The rig, which is being used by GHK Companies of Oklahoma City, is capable of drilling 50,000 feet or almost 10 miles into the earth.

The Oklahoma Petroleum Council has recently placed a granite monument in Elk City which notes that the Deep Anadarko Basin of Western Oklahoma is one of the most prolific gas provinces of North America. Wells drilled in the basin have been among the world's deepest.

The area, which stretches across much of western Oklahoma and part of Texas, has been the scene of so much oil and gas activity during the past two years that many old timers are comparing it with Oklahoma's earlier oil boom of the 1920s.

Oklahoma State University will showcase the Southwest's cultural heritage Oct. 9-15 during a festival of events on campus and in Stillwater. Participating in the festival will be artists, scholars and humanists living in the Southwest region of the United States.

The premiere performance of a play written by Linda Hogan will open the festival. A musical evening featuring music by Louis Ballard and other Southwestern composers and an art show of sculpture and paintings by Manuel Neri are also planned. Novelist Scott Momaday and other prominent writers will take part.

Programs on topics such as Southwestern history, sports, agriculture, education and cultural groups are scheduled throughout the week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Happy Silver Anniversary. I wish you much success. I think your magazine is great.

Mrs. Florence Carter
Trona, CA

Editor:

For the last three years I have been serving in the Navy in Japan. You have no idea how much I look forward to receiving *Oklahoma Today*. I grew up in Oklahoma City and I miss my home state a great deal. *Oklahoma Today* makes me feel a little closer to home. In December I will be transferring back to the states and I don't want to miss an issue. Please change the address on my subscription.

Mrs. J. M. McKinstry

BOOKS IN REVIEW

Southern Living Magazine and Rand McNally have combined efforts to publish TRAVEL SOUTH 1981; Oxmoor House; \$9.95. The all-in-one travel guide includes highway maps, attractions, special events dates and beautiful photography of the 15 southern states and Washington, D.C.

One of the book's best features is a map of driving times as well as mileage between cities in the region. The book will be updated annually.

The first complete work on SADDLES has been published by the University of Oklahoma Press; \$35.00. Written by Russel H. Beatie, the book covers virtually every aspect of saddlery, saddle measurement, selection and care plus tips on matching horse, rider and saddle into a dynamic whole.

The beautiful leatherwork and use of silver on saddles are also described. The over-sized book is filled with drawings and photographs of historical saddles and handsomely bound.

It's amazing just how much there is to learn about saddles, and the material is presented in a highly readable manner.

Two small books, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, would be delightful companions to take along on camping and hiking trips in Oklahoma. FIFTY COMMON BIRDS OF OKLAHOMA AND THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS by George Miksch Sutton; \$6.95 and \$8.95 is beautifully illustrated by Sutton, an internationally known ornithologist and bird artist.

The text describes plumage, behavior, and food and breeding habits accompanied by a full-color Sutton painting of each bird.

ROADSIDE TREES AND SHRUBS OF OKLAHOMA by Doyle McCoy; \$9.95 will also be useful in identifying what you are seeing as you travel about Oklahoma. Both the common and scientific names of each plant are included with full-color photographs. The author visited every county in the state to photograph and study the 156 native trees and shrubs.

KIOWA VOICES: Ceremonial Dance, Ritual and Song by Maurice Boyd, \$25 is the first of two volumes published by Texas Christian University Press. The oversized, beautifully illustrated books are a collection of the Kiowa Indians' own version of their history and folklore, myths and legends, art and music.

For generations, the Kiowas passed along their memory of their tribal history and traditions from parent to child. Because the elderly are dying out, the Kiowas became concerned about preserving their folk culture. Much of the material was gathered through interviews and private records. These volumes are their permanent record.

It is fascinating to read the legends behind the sacred or ceremonial dances along with an explanation of symbols and songs associated with the dances. Included are the Black Legs and the Kiowa Gourd Clan warrior dances, which are being preserved today by members of these societies.

Those who enjoy quilting will enjoy CRAZY QUILTING WITH A DIFFERENCE by Dixie Haywood;

Scissortail Publications, Bethany, OK; \$10.00. The Bethany quiltmaker includes directions for 24 projects including five quilts in her second book.

The former editor of *Oklahoma Today*, Bill Burchardt, has written a new novel, THE LIGHTHORSEMEN; Doubleday; \$9.95. Each of the Five Civilized Tribes has its own policemen, called Lighthorsemen, in Indian Territory, and the main characters of the story are members of this select group.

One of the Lighthorsemen, Johnson Lott, falls in love with a white girl, a settler's daughter. Interwoven into the love story are the culture, lifestyles and attitudes of the Indian people during this period of our state's history. It also affords a glimpse of how the Lighthorsemen maintained order during territorial days.

CHIEF LEFT HAND, SOUTHERN ARAPAHO by Margaret Coel; University of Oklahoma Press; \$15.95 is the first biography of this legendary leader of the Plains Indians.

Because Chief Left Hand learned to speak English as a teenager, white men never forgot him. This ability helped prepare him for tribal leadership.

When hordes of white men began migrating to the central plains in the mid-1800s, there was no place for the Indians to go. This is the story of Chief Left Hand and his people during a time of change, a time that would alter their lives and the face of an entire region.

This statue of Cortes, conqueror of Mexico, is among the historical illustrations from Saddles.



THE MALIGNED MESQUITE-



ITS FORGOTTEN WONDERS

Today cowboys curse its thorns and impenetrable brush. Ranchers bulldoze or spray it from planes to kill it. But once upon a time in the lowly mesquite's past, this tree or shrub—depending on its location—was praised for all its attributes.

The Native American equated it with manna from Heaven, claiming every part had its use, ranging from medicine and candy to bread and beer. Many an expedition across the arid Southwest survived using its beans for food and its roots for fuel. Western explorer Captain Randolph Marcy called it the greatest discovery since gold was found in California.

The mesquite is as involved in the history and lore of the Southwest as the six-gun, barbed wire, or windmill. A leguminous tree, *Prosopis glandulosa* is its scientific name. It was known as *mezquilt* to the ancient Aztecs. (Pronounced meskeet—often

By Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson is director of the Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.

muskeet—it has also been called western honey locust, honey or velvet mesquite, algaroba tree, and Texas ironwood.)

Native to the southwestern deserts, it recently crept into southern Kansas and western Louisiana. Often it is a mere shrub with the mass of its wood growing below ground as large, creeping roots. The frontiersman knew that with spade and ax he could dig out pieces 15 to 20 feet long.

Mesquite roots sometimes reach out laterally as far as 50 feet and grow down as much as 175 feet. "The Southwest is a hell of a country," frontiersmen used to say, "where a man has to dig for wood and climb for water," meaning digging for mesquite roots and climbing canyons to head-springs. On rich bottomlands the mesquite can grow 40 feet high with an undivided trunk two feet in diameter and seven to 10 feet high before forking.

The tree has a peculiar charm all its own. Thickets of mesquites in bloom have often been mistaken for vast peach orchards. In Mexico it was planted as a shade tree. Throughout the Southwest, many swear by its beauty and regal bearing. In Lawton, developer Frank Sneed curved a road three feet just to save a mesquite for a front lawn.

Its foliage serves as a guide for farmers. "The mesquite knows," old-timers will tell you. It knows when winter is over and there is no longer danger of frost. "When the mesquite begins to bud, it's time to put out tomato plants" is an old folk saying. "Plant cotton when the mesquite leaf" is another.

Texas boasts the largest mesquites in America, which are found on the lower Rio Grande and the Nueces. Perhaps the largest is "Old Geronimo" with a whopping trunk 15 feet in circumference in Tumacacori, Ariz.

Oklahoma's largest mesquite measures seven feet, 10 inches around the trunk, is 32 feet tall, and grows five miles north of Hammsville, east of Hollister in Tillman County. A close second, seven feet nine inches, was planted as a seedling in 1901 at the southwest corner of Gotebo in Kiowa County. In the nearby Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, opposite the Sulphur Flat prairie dog town, one measures six feet eight inches around.

The Apache and Navajo made their bows from it. Pioneers used it for hubs and spokes for wagon wheels. Forts over the Southwest depended on it for fuel. Furniture in the sprawling King Ranch in Texas was made from it.

Mesquite is a hard, heavy, close-grained wood, and although not strong, it is extremely durable. Its richly colored heartwood varies from dark brown to red and polishes beautifully. Today woodworkers use it for making rolling pins, cutting boards, jewelry boxes, dominoes, pipes, belt buckles, gun stocks and knife handles, golf clubs, even floor tiles.

Old-timers still argue over which lasts longer, mesquite or cedar posts. Mesquite will last longer if cut from mature trees and allowed to season. Mexicans say the time to cut mesquite is when the sap is down. If it is cut when the moon is full and the bark is peeled off, worms will not bore the wood, they say.

Mesquite is an axman's delight, folklorist J. Frank Dobie used to say, for each stroke gives off a pleasing aroma. "No day can be counted entirely lost which begins with the smell of a mesquite fire at dawn and the taste of coffee boiled over it," Dobie believed.

Mesquite-broiled steaks also have become popular. The Comanches always preferred mesquite for their campfires because it gives off little smoke.

The mesquite begins to blossom about the middle of May and crops of sweet-scented yellow flowers with greenish-white petals continue until mid-July. The sweet fragrance of the catkinlike flowers draws bees by the millions, making mesquite a major source of honey, which is always a clear amber and of delicious quality.

Southwestern Indians utilized every part of the tree with its pods or bean fruit supplying their staple diet. Ripening throughout July and August, the beans turn from green to yellow-



Hard, heavy and close-grained, mesquite is enjoyed by woodworkers for a variety of products including rolling pins, cutting boards, jewelry boxes, belt buckles, dominoes, even pipes. Photo by Bob Gates.



ish-white mottled with red, when they become sweet and palatable to both man and animal. Ripe beans can be eaten while hanging on the tree, broiled or dried and ground into flour for cakes, mush or bread. They can even be fermented for a mild alcoholic drink.

In her book *American Indian Food and Lore*, Carolyn Neithammer provides Native American recipes for such mesquite delicacies as gruel, broth, dumplings, pudding, bread and even punch.

Mesquite *atole* is a delicious drink. The whole pods are dropped into boiling water and when cooked, they are placed in fresh water, pounded into a pulp, and strained. The result is a pleasant beverage. A variation is to crush the pods first and then boil the flour.

During the Civil War when coffee was scarce, mesquite coffee became popular, as did mesquite tea, made by boiling the dried leaves. When U.S. Cavalrymen were chasing Apaches, mesquite pods for horse feed brought three cents a pound. In 1897 newspapers reported the going market price at \$1 a bushel.

The mesquite's gum or sap—along with its leaves, roots, and inner bark—provided a cure-all for ailments. More than 450 years ago the Aztecs used the leaves as a lotion for sore eyes. The Comanches did the same, and also brewed the leaves for a tea to neutralize stomach acidity, and chewed them to cure toothache.

Yuma Indians applied an infusion of the leaves to relieve venereal disease. Yaquis mashed the leaves into a pulp for a poultice to place around the forehead to relieve a headache. Pimas boiled the leaves and used the extract for an emetic.

The Papagos peeled the white inner bark, pounded it into a powder, boiled it with salt, and drank it when suffering from chronic indigestion. Frontiersmen used the mesquite's bark for tanning and dyeing. When jaded by a case of flu, they concocted a tea made from its roots, the same root tea the Maricopas used for a child with umbilical hernia.

The tree's gum presents the most mysteries. It is similar to gum arabic, to which it has often been compared. For centuries Indians used it for a healing balm for wounds and sores, a

pottery-mending cement, a black dye, a tea for diarrhea, an aid for digestion, and as candy.

From May to September, amber-colored tears of gum exudes from the bark or broken limbs of older trees. The gum forms slowly in small tears or layers, but even after making incisions in the trunk, the tree will not yield more than a pound for the season.

Pima women treated their long black hair to a mud bath mixed with mesquite gum to darken it. They boiled the sap for a throat gargle, or wash for open wounds. Mexicans chewed it for toothache. The gum was collected in Texas and used in the preparation of mucilage, gum drops, and jujube-paste. In recent years a gum preparation has been sold as an emollient for inflamed mucous membranes.

Well into this century the mesquite turned from a tree of praise and wonder to a menacing growth encroaching the grasslands. Between 1850 and 1950, mesquite spread from its native habitat of streams, arroyos, bottomlands, and desert springs to entangle and cover more than 75 million acres.

Today research continues on a harvested mesquite diet for cattle. Possible products are charcoal, tannins, ethyl alcohol, acids, sugar, plastics, and wall board. Mesquite gum is gaining usage in gumdrops and mucilages, and as a source of uncommon sugars.

Many believe that this combination wonder and ravager should not be eradicated from the bottomlands or stream banks where its value for browse and shade, and even fence posts and fuels, far exceeds the grass that the same land would provide.

Donald Peattie in his *Natural History of Western Trees* aptly writes, "Mesquite is something more than a tree; it is almost an elemental force, comparable to fire—too valuable to extinguish completely and too dangerous to trust unwatched."

This large mesquite, measuring six feet eight inches around its trunk, grows near the Sulphur Flat prairie dog town in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma. Buffalo find its trunk handy for scratching. Photo by Steve Wilson.



ART EXHIBITS

- Sept. 1-3 Anita Hausman Paintings, Museum of Great Plains, Lawton
- Sept. 1-6 Annual Indian Art Exhibit, Philbrook, Tulsa
- Sept. 1-25 Living Women—Living Art, Governor's Gallery, State Capitol, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 1-30 View & Visions, Southern Plains Indian Museum, Anadarko
- Sept. 7-30 Verne Thompson, Editorial Cartoonist, Museum of Great Plains, Lawton
- Sept. 12-Oct. 18 3 Southern Realists, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 12-Oct. 18 LeRoy Neiman Original Drawings, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 5-Dec. 24 Made By Hand, Stovall Museum, Norman
- Oct. 10-11 Indian Art Show, Hilton Inn West, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 17-Nov. 22 Mabee-Gerrers's Indian Art & Artifacts, St Gregory's, Shawnee
- Nov. 25-Dec. 6 Indian Portraits by Winhold Reiss, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 1-30 Augusta Metcalf Paintings, State Capitol, Governor's Gallery, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 28-Dec. 31 Exhibit from The Jewish Museum of NYC, St Gregory's, Shawnee
- Dec. 4-5 Christmas Arts & Crafts Show, Cherokee Art Center, Tahlequah
- Dec. 4-6 Christmas Fair, Firehouse Art Center, Norman
- Dec. 6-Jan. 17 Recent Acquisitions, Philbrook, Tulsa
- Dec. 13-Jan. 17 Benton's Bentons, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City
- Jan. 13-Jan. 17 Portraits of Vanishing Peoples, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City

DRAMA

- Sept. 1-13 "Beginner's Luck," Gaslight Theatre, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 3-26 "A Murder Is Announced," Theatre Tulsa, Tulsa
- Sept. 11-26 "Tribute," Jewel Box Theatre, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 15-Oct. 15 "Pai Joey," Cabaret Supper Theatre, Ft. Sill
- Sept. 16-Oct. 11 "On The Air," Gaslight Theatre, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 16-Oct. 18 "Beginner's Luck," Gaslight Theatre, Tulsa
- Sept. 24-26 "Chapter Two," Bartlesville Community Theatre, Bartlesville
- Oct. 1-10 "Present Laughter," Central State Univ., Edmond
- Oct. 2-11 "The Night of January 15," Community Playhouse, Broken Arrow
- Oct. 10 "Talley's Folly," Bartlesville Community Theatre, Bartlesville
- Oct. 14-Nov. 18 "Opal's Baby," Gaslight Theatre, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 15-31 "The Good Doctor," Oklahoma Theatre Center, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 16-Nov. 7 "Frankenstein," American Theatre Co., Tulsa
- Oct. 23-Nov. 7 "The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild," Jewel Box Theatre, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 29-Nov. 8 "Flowers for Algernon," Theatre Tulsa, Tulsa
- Nov. 2 "Nati Theatre of the Deaf," OCU, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 5-14 "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," Central State Univ., Edmond
- Nov. 7-14 "Hansel & Gretel," Oklahoma Theatre Center, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 12-29 "Colei," Oklahoma Theatre Center, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 19-21 "On Golden Pond," Bartlesville Community Theatre, Bartlesville
- Nov. 20-29 "Life With Father," Community Playhouse, Broken Arrow
- Nov. 24-Dec. 19 "The Stingiest Man In Town," Cabaret Supper Theatre, Ft. Sill
- Dec. 3-13 "Cinderella," Theatre Tulsa, Tulsa
- Dec. 4-19 "Once Upon A Musical," Jewel Box Theatre, Oklahoma City

- Dec. 10-20 "A Christmas Carol," Oklahoma Theatre Center, Oklahoma City
- Dec. 11-30 "Peter Pan," American Theatre Co., Tulsa

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

- Sept. 4-5 Frontier Days, Cache
- Sept. 4-5 Campus Corner Arts Festival, Norman
- Sept. 5-7 Arts Festival of South Oklahoma City, SOCAC, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 17-20 Fall Festival, Kerr Park, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 19 Cherokee Strip Celebration, Perry
- Sept. 19-20 Cattle Trails Festival, Elk City
- Sept. 21-26 Pioneer Week, Cushing
- Sept. 25-Oct. 4 State Fair, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 2-3 Selenite Pow Wow, Fairgrounds, Cherokee
- Oct. 2-11 Tulsa State Fair, Expo Square, Tulsa
- Oct. 3-4 Fun Country Festival, SEOSU, Durant
- Oct. 16-18 Oktoberfest, River Parks Model Park, Tulsa
- Oct. 17-18 OMSG Gem & Mineral Show, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 24 Sorghum Day, Wewoka
- Nov. 7 Harvest Moon Festival on the Paseo, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 7 Peanut Festival, Holdenville

HUNTING SEASONS

BIRDS

- Sept. 1-Oct. 30 Dove
- Sept. 19-27 Teal
- Nov. 1-Mar. 4 Crow
- Nov. 7-15 Prairie Chicken
- Nov. 7-Dec. 27 Wild Turkey
- Nov. 20-Feb. 15 Quail
- Dec. 1-31 Pheasant

GAME

- Oct. 1-Mar. 1 Cottontail, Swamp & Jack Rabbit
- Sept. 17-Dec. 31 Deer
- Sept. 1-Jan. 1 Squirrel

INDIAN EVENTS

- Sept. 4-6 Cherokee National Holiday, Tahlequah
- Sept. 4-6 Ottawa Pow Wow, Beaver Springs Park, Miami
- Sept. 5-7 Indian Pow Wow, Fairgrounds, Eufaula
- Oct. 10-11 Kiowa Blackleggings, Indian City, Anadarko
- Oct. 17-18 Otee-Missouria Tribe Weekends, Red Rock
- Oct. 17 Chickasaw Nation Day, Kullihoma Reservation, Ada

MUSIC/DANCE

- Sept. 24 Cho-Liang Lin, Violinist, Philharmonic, Tulsa
- Sept. 25 Cleo Laine, Civic Center, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 25-27 "H.M.S. Pinafore," OCU, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 26-27 "Copelia," Tulsa Ballet Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Tulsa
- Oct. 3 Leonard Rose, Philharmonic, Lawton
- Oct. 10 Patti Page, Pops Concert, Tulsa
- Oct. 11-13 Sholomo Mintz, Violinist, Oklahoma Symphony, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 16-18 Ballet Oklahoma, OCU, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 17 Opening Concert, Church Circuit Opera, Sooner Theater, Norman
- Oct. 17 The Fifth Dimension, Pops Concert, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 17-18 The New Arts Trio, Performing Arts Center, Tulsa
- Oct. 20-22 "Medea," OCU, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 21 Opera Gala, Church Circuit Opera, Oklahoma Baptist Univ., Shawnee
- Oct. 22 All Orchestral Tchaikovsky, Philharmonic, Tulsa
- Oct. 24 Opera Gala, Church Circuit Opera, Eufaula

- Oct. 25 Opera Gala, Church Circuit Opera, Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa
- Nov. 1 Church Circuit Opera, Leland Clegg Church, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 7, 12, 14 "Andrea Chenier," Tulsa Opera, Tulsa
- Nov. 7 Ingrid Dingfelder, Philharmonic, Lawton
- Nov. 7 Joffrey Ballet, Idabel
- Nov. 8/10 Barbara Davis & Guido Lammell, Oklahoma Symphony, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 13 "Hansel & Gretel," Church Circuit Opera, Blackwell
- Nov. 14 Kay Starr, Pops Concert, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 15 "Hansel & Gretel," Church Circuit Opera, Bristow
- Nov. 19 Brenda Booser, Mezzo-Soprano, Philharmonic, Tulsa
- Nov. 21-22 The Pro Arts Quartet, Performing Arts Center, Tulsa
- Nov. 22/24 Lacy McLarry & Royce McLarry, Oklahoma Symphony, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 28 Chita Rivera, Pops Concert, Oklahoma City
- Dec. 5 Jana Jae, Pops Concert, Tulsa
- Dec. 5 Handel's Messiah, Philharmonic, Lawton
- Dec. 5 "Hansel & Gretel," Church Circuit Opera, 1st Christian Church, MWC
- Dec. 6/8 Kimberly Schmidt, Pianist, Oklahoma Symphony, Oklahoma City
- Dec. 6 "Hansel & Gretel," Church Circuit Opera, McAlester
- Dec. 10 Lawrence Leighton Smith & Mirriam Fried, Philharmonic, Tulsa
- Dec. 12 "Hansel & Gretel," Church Circuit Opera, OK Museum of Art, Oklahoma City
- Dec. 12-13 "The Nutcracker," Ballet Oklahoma, Civic Center, Oklahoma City

RODEOS & HORSE EVENTS

- Sept. 4-5 Bud Grainer Memorial Rodeo, Broken Arrow
- Sept. 4-6 Oklahoma State Prison Rodeo, McAlester
- Sept. 10-12 Great Plains Rodeo, Rodeo Arena, Altus
- Sept. 12-13 Robbers Route Competitive Ride, Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton
- Sept. 18-19 Progress Days Rodeo, Skiatook
- Sept. 18-19 Muscular Dystrophy Open Rodeo, Fair Arena, Shawnee
- Sept. 20 All Girls Rodeo, Claremore
- Sept. 26 Robbers Route Endurance Ride, Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton
- Oct. 1-4 State Fair Rodeo, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 3-4 Fall Color Trail Ride, Illinois River Trails, Tahlequah
- Oct. 10-11 World's Richest Roping & Western Art Show, Bushyhead
- Oct. 14-18 Grand National Morgan Horse Show, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 23-25 U.S. Dressage Championship, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 2-8 World Appaloosa Horse Show, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Nov. 16-22 World Quarter Horse Show, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Dec. 5-13 Nat'l Finals Rodeo, Myriad, Oklahoma City
- Dec. 7-8, 10-11 Oklahoma Horse Council Horse Farm Tours, Oklahoma City

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sept. 7 Great Raft Race, River City Park, Tulsa
- Sept. 19 Celebration of Women & The Arts, State Capitol, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 10 Riverside Run, River Parks Trail, Tulsa
- Oct. 24-25 Hot Air Balloon Fest, Chickasha
- Oct. 30-Nov. 4 Will Rogers Celebration, Will Rogers Memorial, Claremore
- Oct. 31 Tulsa Run, Williams Center Green, Tulsa
- Nov. 6-8 Antique Auto Club Swap Meet, Fairgrounds, Chickasha

